

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 10473 021015Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /045 W
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R 020836Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 604
INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL SURABAYA

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, ID
SUBJECT: 1965 COUP PLOTTER SENTENCED

1. FORMER ARMY COLONEL ABDUL LATIEF, A KEY MAN IN THE 1965
PKI COUP ATTEMPT, WAS SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT BY A
MILITARY TRIBUNAL AUGUST 1 IN JAKARTA. LATIEF WAS COMMANDER
OF THE INFANTRY BRIGADE OF THE JAKARTA MILITARY GARRISON AT
THE TIME OF THE COUP ATTEMPT AND HAD COOPERATED CLOSELY WITH
KEY COUP PLOTTER LT. COL. UNTUNG IN PREPARING TO ARREST THE
SEVEN GENERALS WHO WERE SUBSEQUENTLY KILLED. ACCORDING TO
THE VERDICT, HE WAS FOUND GUILTY OF REBELLION AND ATTEMPT-
ING THE OVERTHROW OF THE LEGAL GOVERNMENT IN 1965, AS WELL
AS HAVING ENCOURAGED OTHERS TO TAKE THE LIVES OF VARIOUS
PERSONS INCLUDING THE ASSASSINATED GENERALS.

2. LATIEF ACTED AS HIS OWN DEFENSE COUNSEL DURING THE 3-
MONTH TRIAL AND DENIED HAVING BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY ACT OF
REBELLION AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT, CLAIMING HE HAD ONLY
TRIED TO PROTECT PRESIDENT SUKARNO FROM THE MACHINATIONS
OF THE GENERALS. HE ASKED THE COURT FOR ONE WEEK'S TIME
TO REPLY TO THE VERDICT.

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PAGE 02 JAKART 10473 021015Z

3. TRIALS OF OTHER CATEGORY A POLITICAL DETAINEES ARE
CONTINUING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GOI'S ANNOUNCED INTEN-
TION TO BRING THEM ALL TO TRIAL OR DOWNGRADE THEM TO
CATEGORY B FOR RELEASE BY THE END OF 1979. THE NEXT
MAJOR FIGURE TO BE TRIED IS REPORTED TO BE MRS. SUTANTI
AIDIT, WIDOW OF THE FORMER PKI CHIEF. MANY OF THOSE

TRIED SOON AFTER THE 1965 COUP ATTEMPT HAVE ALREADY COM-
PLETED THEIR SENTENCES AND HAVE BEEN RELEASED, SUCH AS
FORMER MINISTER OF TRANSMIGRATION AND COOPERATIVES DRS.
MOHAMMED ACHADI, RELEASED IN MAY AFTER SERVING 12 YEARS.
GARDNER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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